

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Elisa H. Hedgepath,)
)
Certificate 176700)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 9, 2007. On December 12, 2006, the State Department of Education (Department) sent Elisa H. Hedgepath a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Hedgepath received the notice, as evidenced by the signed Verification of Delivery form, but did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Hedgepath's certificate until she repays the full amount owed on her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA).

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Hedgepath holds a valid certificate and has over 12 years of teaching experience. On September 1, 2000, Ms. Hedgepath signed a promissory note with the State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of \$2300 to pay for the costs of applying for certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). One of the terms of that promissory note was that the loan recipient would be obligated to repay one half of the loan amount, \$1150, if after participation in the process for one year, he or she did not continue or otherwise successfully complete the process of obtaining NBPTS certification. Under this term of the agreement, Ms. Hedgepath is now obligated to repay the \$1150. CERRA and the State Department of Education sent several letters to Ms. Hedgepath informing her that the \$1150 was now due and of the

consequences for failing to repay the amount due. Ms. Hedgepath has not repaid the \$1150 now due.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its decision to suspend Ms. Hedgepath's educator certificate from the date of this Order until she has satisfied her remaining financial obligation to the State of South Carolina, as established in the promissory note referenced above. Upon full payment of the balance due, if Ms. Hedgepath wishes to have her certificate reinstated, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Educator Certification of the Department of Education.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ John E. Tindal

John E. Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 9, 2007